

Letter



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/878,193	06/12/2001	Yuji Sato	0717-0469P	1968
2292	7590	05/18/2006		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			EXAMINER FATAHI YAR, MAHMOUD	
			ART UNIT 2629	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/878,193

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Fatahiyar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 4-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18 and 21 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Kivela et al(6,404,423B1).

Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kivela et al(6,404,423B1).

Kivela et al disclose a display power management function for an image display system comprising at least one display device(10) connected to a host wherein an image is displayed on the at least one display device in accordance with an image signal and a first signal(i.e., a synchronization signal) which is output from the host(figures 5 and 7); and the at least one display device constantly monitors a state of coupling with the host device based on the a second signal different from the first signal ,such as a data enable signal(i.e., a video voltage level signal), which is output from the host device(columns 4-5 and figures 5 and 7).

In claim 8, relative to the limitation "monitoring during a period which is set by means of a timer" such is also taught by Kivela et al(column 5, lines 33-50).

As to claims 13-14 and 16-17, relative to the limitations "the display device independently administers power management thereof based on a prescribed setting", such is also taught by Kivela et al(column 5, lines 24-67; column 6 and figures 8A-8C and 9A-9C).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kivela et al in view of Mitchel et al(5,987,614).

Kivela et al is discussed above. Mitchel et al is cited to show that the concept of providing power saving feature for a plurality of LCD display devices being interconnected to one another is old(see abstract and figure 14). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Kivela et al with the noted teachings of Mithcel et al such that to provide a power saving features for a plurality of LCD display devices being connected to each other because Kivela et al in figure 5 shows that the monitor(10) could be connected to other I/O devices(36, such as an output device like another display device) and further because both references are related to power saving features for a display panel device.

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6. Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kivela et al(6,404,423B1).

Kivela et al is discussed above. In claims 5 and 21, relative to the limitations "based on a data transfer clock signal" or "based on a control information signal", Kivela et al, column 4, lines 61-67 and column 5, lines 1-6, state that their system is not necessary dependent upon any of the DPMS signals at all, and may instead utilize some other signal indication of user inactivity, such as another signal provided on the VGA cable, or via an input/output port(36) or any of many other different conceivable indicators of user inactivity. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Kivela et al such that the display device(10) monitors a state of coupling with the host based on a data transfer clock signal or based on a control information signal because Kivela et al show the desirability of monitoring the status of coupling based on DPMS signals or any other signal indicators of use inactivity.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

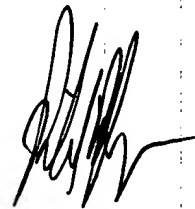
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ikonen et al, Hwang, Haapakoski and Maslennikov et al are made of record to show various types of display devices that monitor the status of coupling with a host device based on other signals than synchronization signals.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Fatahiyar whose telephone number is (571)272-7688. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

MF
M. Fatahiyar

May 13, 2006